

NCDHHS PARTNERS WITH MAKO MEDICAL TO BRING COVID-19 TESTING TO SCHOOLS, PROVIDING ACCESS TO 100'S OF THOUSANDS



Proven Case Study in K12 COVID-19 Testing

KEY METRICS

600,000+

PROVIDED WITH TESTING ACCESS IN THE NC K-12 SCHOOL SYSTEM

10,000+

POSITIVE CASES DETECTED

900+

SCHOOLS PARTNERED W/ TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

120+

PROFESSIONALLY-TRAINED COVID-RESPONSE REPS SUPPORTING NC SCHOOLS



KEY STORYLINES

Cultivating HOPE Through Testing

With the fear and uncertainty surrounding the health and well-being of students, educators, and staff, returning to an in-person learning environment presented a unique challenge. As factors outside of a normal instructional focus took center stage, a COVID-19 response plan proved to be pivotal. The K-12 testing program quickly became the cornerstone of this plan. Through accessible diagnostic testing, streamlined routine testing, and the detection of thousands of positive cases, the NCDHHS K-12 testing program restored hope by establishing confidence in a safe in-person learning environment within the NC school system.

Committing to IN-CLASS Learning Time

The goal of the testing program was, and remains, to promote and protect in-person learning. By providing equitable access to testing, schools were empowered with the proper tools to keep their classrooms safe. Harnessing the willing collaboration of school staff, met the unique needs of each school. As a result, a typical testing event took only 15-30 minutes once per week, providing peace of mind without disruption.

Consistent Care & Testing Services EVERYWHERE

From Rockingham to Knotts Island, this innovative program provided exceptional service and robust COVID-19 resources to the entirety of central-eastern North Carolina. With rural areas and Historically Marginalized Populations (HMPs) prone to receiving the lesser of both, the NCDHHS program bridged the gap by prioritizing and empowering these populations. Leveraging existing infrastructure was key to serving every participating school with excellence, regardless of the location. Equitable access to testing for all populations was a key to the success of the entire program.

KEY POINTS OF SUCCESS

Collaboration among all stakeholders (Administrations, Principals, Superintendents, State leaders, School Nurses).

Turnaround time within 24 hours from time of collection.

Flexible and various collection times of day and formats.

Developed customized training, support, launch and operational guides for consistent and long term success.

The MAKO partnership was an invaluable asset ... testing gave us critical information that allowed us to stay in school in person all year ... weekly testing provided the peace of mind that students, staff and parents needed to feel confident in our close association with each other. The MAKO team became part of our team!

SCIENCE DEPT. HEAD
Instructional Coordinator
COVID TESTING COORDINATOR

The free access to testing facilitated identification of positive cases and appropriate isolation...schools were successful in maintaining a complete year of in-person classroom instruction ... The testing program supported ease and access to testing which was beneficial in a community with limited access to testing.

LEAD SCHOOL NURSE